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Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 30, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-17, 19-23, and 25-30 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-17, and 19-21 are rejected. Claims 22, 23 and 25-30 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16, and 17 have been amended.

Applicants note that the summary page of the Office Action Claim 24 was listed as being allowed instead of Claim 23. Claim 24 was previously canceled. Claim 23 was correctly indicated as being allowed in the Office Action detail and the Office will be responded to accordingly.

The rejection of Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keuleman et al ("Keuleman") (U.S. Patent No. 4,209,915 is respectfully traversed.

Keuleman describes a control arrangement for a clothes dryer. The clothes dryer includes a cabinet (1), a motor (M) connected to rotate a drying chamber (2), and a fan (3) for passing air through the chamber from an inlet (4) to an outlet (5). A heater (H) is positioned adjacent the inlet. A first temperature sensor (6) is located adjacent the outlet and a second temperature sensor (7) is located adjacent the inlet in air at ambient temperature, upstream of the fan and the heater. The heater includes two heating elements (H1) and H2) which are controlled by heat regulating means (HRM) to maintain a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air. A zero cross detector (OXP) is supplied that produces zero crossing pulses at each zero crossing of the alternating voltage source. The heat regulating means includes triacs (T1) and (T2) that receive the zero crossing pulses from the zero cross detectors. Heat monitoring means (HMM) are also responsive to the zero crossing pulses passed from the Triacs.

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The heat monitoring means is configured to provide a heating off signal (HO) which disables gates (G1) and (G2) in the triacs to turn off the heating elements.

Claim 1 recites a method of limiting current, the method including "providing an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stopping said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitoring the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein said reproviding comprises reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; and controlling said stopping and said reproviding to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

Keuleman neither describes nor suggests a method for limiting current as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Keuleman neither describes nor suggests a method for limiting current wherein the stopping and reproviding of a sine wave is controlled to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Keuleman.

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 4 likewise is patentable over Keuleman.

Claim 10 recites an electric clothes dryer heater system including "a heater element; and a controller operationally coupled to said heater, said controller configured to: provide an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stop said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitor the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; and

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reprovide the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein to reprovide the AC sine wave to said at least one heater element, said controller configured to reprovide at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; wherein said AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

Keuleman neither describes nor suggests an electric clothes dryer heating system as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, Keuleman neither describes nor suggests an electric clothes dryer heating system wherein an AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Keuleman.

Claim 13 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 13 likewise is patentable over Keuleman.

Claim 16 recites a dryer for tumble drying articles including "a drum comprising a cavity configured to hold articles to be dried; a motor drivingly coupled to said drum to rotate said drum; a heater element in flow communication with said cavity; a blower positioned to deliver heated air to said cavity; and a controller operationally coupled to said heater, said controller configured to: provide an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stop said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitor the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; and reprovide the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein to reprovide the AC sine wave to said at least one heater element, said controller configured to reprovide at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; wherein said AC sine

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wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

Keuleman neither describes nor suggests a dryer for tumble drying articles as recited in Claim 16. More specifically, Keuleman neither describes nor suggests a dryer for tumble drying articles wherein an AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Keuleman.

Claim 19 depends from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claim 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 19 likewise is patentable over Keuleman.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 102 rejection of Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 16 and 19 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 5-9, 14, 15, 20, 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino et al. ("Hikino") (U.S. Patent No. 4,649,654) is respectfully traversed.

Keuleman is described above. Hikino describes a clothes dryer (1) including a door (2), a rotatable drum (3), a heater (5) and a heater casing (6). A motor (8) drives the drum and a fan (10) for taking in and discharging air. A humidity sensor (16) and a thermostat (17) are positioned in an exhaust duct (15). A thermostat (18) is provided in the vicinity of the heater. The thermostats are arranged to break the heater circuit when an exhaust temperature and a heater temperature exceed predetermined values. The dryer includes a control unit (11) having a microcomputer (21) and control circuits including an overvoltage detecting circuit (23), a heater temperature detecting circuit (24), and a humidity detecting circuit (25). The humidity detecting

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circuit turns off the heater based on a detected resistance value in the humidity sensor and a selected drying mode. When the AC source voltage exceeds its rated value, the voltage detecting circuit sends a signal having a pulse width to the microcomputer which opens the heater circuit for a period of time corresponding to the pulse width of the received signal. The supply voltage is detected in the negative half of the supply voltage wave form.

Applicants respectfully submit that the 103 rejection of presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Keuleman based on the teachings of Hikino.

More specifically, as is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. The required teaching, suggestion and incentive must be found in the references themselves. Neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, in contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit there is no motivation to combine Keuleman and Hikino suggested in the references themselves.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure. *In re Vaack*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion nor motivation to combine or modify the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or

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"template" to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. The present Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and applicants respectfully request the 103 rejection of Claims 5-9, 14, 15, 20, 21 be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method of limiting current, the method including "providing an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stopping said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitoring the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein said reproviding comprises reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; and controlling said stopping and said reproviding to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

Neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for limiting current as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination describe or suggest a method for limiting current wherein the stopping and reproviding of a sine wave is controlled to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, and Hikino describes a control with control circuits directed to controlling a heater separately based on heater temperature, humidity and overvoltage conditions in the source voltage. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 5 and

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6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 5 and 6 likewise are patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

Claims 7-9 depend from Claim 2 which recites a method of limiting current, said method including "providing an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stopping said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitoring the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein said reproviding comprises reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at a zero crossing immediately subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; and controlling said stopping and said reproviding to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

Neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for limiting current as recited in Claim 2. More specifically, neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination describe or suggest a method for limiting current wherein the stopping and reproviding of a sine wave is controlled to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, and Hikino describes a control with control circuits directed to controlling a heater separately based on heater temperature, humidity and overvoltage conditions in the source voltage. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 2 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

Claims 7-9 depend from independent Claim 2. When the recitations of Claims 7-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 2, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 7-9 likewise are patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 10 recites an electric clothes dryer heater system

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including "a heater element; and a controller operationally coupled to said heater, said controller configured to: provide an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stop said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitor the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; and reprovide the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein to reprovide the AC sine wave to said at least one heater element, said controller configured to reprovide at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; wherein said AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

Neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an electric clothes dryer heating system as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an electric clothes dryer heating system wherein an AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, and Hikino describes a control with control circuits directed to controlling a heater separately based on heater temperature, humidity and overvoltage conditions in the source voltage. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 14 and 15 likewise are patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from Claim 16 which recites a dryer for tumble drying articles including "a drum comprising a cavity configured to hold articles to be dried; a motor drivingly coupled to said drum to rotate said drum; a heater element in flow communication with said cavity; a blower positioned to deliver heated air to said cavity; and a controller operationally

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coupled to said heater, said controller configured to: provide an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stop said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitor the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; and reprovide the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein to reprovide the AC sine wave to said at least one heater element, said controller configured to reprovide at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; wherein said AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

Neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dryer for tumble drying articles as recited in Claim 16. More specifically, neither Keuleman nor Hikino, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dryer for tumble drying articles wherein an AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, and Hikino describes a control with control circuits directed to controlling a heater separately based on heater temperature, humidity and overvoltage conditions in the source voltage. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 20 and 21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 20 and 21 likewise is patentable over Keuleman in view of Hikino.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 103 rejection of Claims 5-9, 14, 15, 20, 21 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 5-9, 14, 15, 20, 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Keuleman in view of Clements (U.S. Patent No. 3,633,094) or Payne et al ("Payne") (U.S. Patent No. 4,282,422) is respectfully traversed.

Keuleman is described above. Clements describes a burst length proportioning controller that includes a latching switch (11) which is operated to supply bursts of current from an AC power source (12) to a condition-controlling load (13) in a manner that tends to maintain the controlled condition at a predetermined set point.

Payne describes a power control system for controlling the power output to one or more resistive heating elements in response to an operator selected power level setting for an appliance such as a cooktop or hotplate. A control system (4) controls power applied to the heating elements by controlling the rate at which gate pulses applied to the gate terminals of triacs (3a)-(3d) in the heating circuits. The pulse repetition rates are varied between the lowest and highest power settings. A zero crossing detector generates a zero crossing pulse at each detected positive going zero crossing of the power signal.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Keuleman based on the teachings of Clements or Payne to produce the claimed invention absent some motivation, suggestion, or incentive to do so. Keuleman teaches a control arrangement for clothes dryers wherein zero crossing in a power source is detected while maintaining a predetermined temperature difference between the dryer outlet and ambient air. Clements is cited for teaching a burst length controller that senses temperature and humidity. Payne is cited for its teaching of a power control system for controlling the power output to one or more resistive heating elements in response to an operator selected power level setting for an appliance such as a cooktop, wherein fractions of a power cycle are used for the various settings. Thus, none of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggests the claimed combination of the present invention. Rather, the present Section 103

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rejection appears to be based on an extrapolation of teachings from Keuleman in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of the claimed combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, this is not impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 5-9, 14, 15, 20, and 21 be withdrawn.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicant's disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion or motivation to modify the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method of limiting current, the method including "providing an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stopping said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitoring the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein said reproviding comprises reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; and controlling said stopping and said reproviding to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

None of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for limiting current as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a

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method for limiting current wherein the stopping and reproviding of a sine wave is controlled to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, Clements describes a controller that includes a latching switch which is operated to supply bursts of current from an AC power source to a condition-controlling load, and Payne describes a power control system for controlling the power output to one or more resistive heating elements in response to an operator selected power level setting for an appliance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 5 and 6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 5 and 6 likewise are patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

Claims 7-9 depend from Claim 2 which recites a method of limiting current, said method including "providing an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stopping said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitoring the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein said reproviding comprises reproviding the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at a zero crossing immediately subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; and controlling said stopping and said reproviding to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

None of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for limiting current as recited in Claim 2. More specifically, none of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a

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method for limiting current wherein the stopping and reproviding of a sine wave is controlled to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, Clements describes a controller that includes a latching switch which is operated to supply bursts of current from an AC power source to a condition-controlling load, and Payne describes a power control system for controlling the power output to one or more resistive heating elements in response to an operator selected power level setting for an appliance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 2 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

Claims 7-9 depend from independent Claim 2. When the recitations of Claims 7-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 2, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 7-9 likewise are patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 10 recites an electric clothes dryer heater system including "a heater element; and a controller operationally coupled to said heater, said controller configured to: provide an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stop said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitor the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; and reprovide the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein to reprovide the AC sine wave to said at least one heater element, said controller configured to reprovide at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; wherein said AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship".

None of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an electric clothes dryer heating system as recited in Claim 10. More specifically,

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none of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an electric clothes dryer heating system wherein an AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, Clements describes a controller that includes a latching switch which is operated to supply bursts of current from an AC power source to a condition-controlling load, and Payne describes a power control system for controlling the power output to one or more resistive heating elements in response to an operator selected power level setting for an appliance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 14 and 15 likewise are patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from Claim 16 which recites a dryer for tumble drying articles including "a drum comprising a cavity configured to hold articles to be dried; a motor drivingly coupled to said drum to rotate said drum; a heater element in flow communication with said cavity; a blower positioned to deliver heated air to said cavity; and a controller operationally coupled to said heater, said controller configured to: provide an AC sine wave to at least one heater element of an electric clothes dryer; stop said providing at a zero crossing of the AC sine wave; monitor the AC sine wave for a subsequent zero crossing; and reprovide the AC sine wave to the at least one heater element at the subsequent zero crossing, wherein to reprovide the AC sine wave to said at least one heater element, said controller configured to reprovide at a zero crossing more than two half cycles subsequent the zero crossing at which the AC sine wave was stopped; wherein said AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture

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relationship".

None of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dryer for tumble drying articles as recited in Claim 16. More specifically, none of Keuleman, Clements, and Payne, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dryer for tumble drying articles wherein an AC sine wave is stopped and reprovided to maintain one of a predetermined temperature to humidity relationship and a predetermined temperature to moisture relationship. Rather, Keuleman describes a control arrangement that maintains a predetermined temperature difference between the outlet and ambient air, Clements describes a controller that includes a latching switch which is operated to supply bursts of current from an AC power source to a condition-controlling load, and Payne describes a power control system for controlling the power output to one or more resistive heating elements in response to an operator selected power level setting for an appliance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 20 and 21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 20 and 21 likewise is patentable over Keuleman in view of Clements, and further in view of Payne.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 103 rejection of Claims 5-9, 14, 15, 20, 21 be withdrawn.

Applicants note that Claims 2 and 17, which are both independent claims, were indicated as being rejected on the Office Action summary page, but no reasons for the rejection of these claims were given in the Office Action detail. Consequently, the Office Action is incomplete for failure to articulate the reasons for rejections so that the Applicant has an opportunity to reply completely at the earliest opportunity. MPEP § 706.


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Claims 2 and 17 have been amended and are believed to be allowable over the cited art. Applicants respectfully request reissue of the current Office Action mailed December 30, 2004 or a new non-final office action with an indication of allowability of Claims 2 and 17, or alternatively stating in actuality the basis for the rejection of Claims 2 and 17.

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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